



NATIONAL ELEVATOR INDUSTRY, INC.

SETTING STANDARDS IN MOTION

Statement of the National Elevator Industry, Inc.

Submitted to the Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures

Texas House of Representatives

Hearing on HB 1485

March 17, 2021

The National Elevator Industry, Inc., (NEII) is the leading trade association for companies that manufacture, install, and maintain elevators, escalators, moving walks, and other building transportation products. NEII members collectively represent over eighty-five percent of the work hours in the building transportation industry. To further the public interest and to enhance safety for the elevator workforce and the riding public, NEII supports HB 1485 and urges its enactment.

HB 1485 would amend section 754 of the Texas Health and Safety Code to require the registration of elevator contractors and elevator mechanics, require continuing education for registered elevator mechanics, and direct the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to adopt rules necessary to implement the legislation within five months of the date of enactment.

NEII, in collaboration and partnership with labor, promotes licensing for elevator industry contractors, mechanics, and inspectors. Licensing requirements for elevator mechanics establish minimum standards for qualifications, education, and training that can be relied on by both the public and the industry. The installation, maintenance, and repair of elevators, escalators, moving sidewalks, etc. are very complex and technical undertakings. As a result, the applicable building codes are continually being revised and improved. It is imperative that elevator technicians be required to demonstrate a fundamental competency for this work.

NEII's member companies support licensing requirements because they already undertake steps to ensure their workers are adequately prepared. Licensing is not a tool to control or limit the workforce, it is a tool to ensure a trained and qualified workforce is available to work on this equipment and safeguard both the riding public and other personnel that may work on the equipment in the future.

Thirty-six states currently require licensure of elevator mechanics. Elevator mechanics typically secure their license in one of the three ways. First, they have a documented record of training from an apprenticeship program recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor. Second, they have a recognized record of experience in the industry, which, in combination with a test administered by the state, provides the basis for licensure. Third, a state may permit an applicant to demonstrate competence by meeting applicable and relevant standards in another state. In all cases, successful licensure programs require continuing education as proposed by HB 1485.

The elevator industry is concerned with safety first and foremost. NEII is confident it can work effectively with the Texas Commission on Licensing and Regulation to develop implementing regulations that meet the needs of the State, the industry, the workforce, and the riding public.

NEII appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony and looks forward to working with the Committee and the House as it considers this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact NEII's Director of Government Affairs, Chelsea Chaney at (620) 332-9552 or via e-mail at cchaney@neii.org if you have any questions or need additional information. Ms. Chaney is available, as are representatives from NEII's member companies, to meet with members of the Committee to address any questions. Thank you for your time and attention to this important industry issue.